

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW & STRATEGY FOR YEMEN'S WEST COAST

JULY 2021

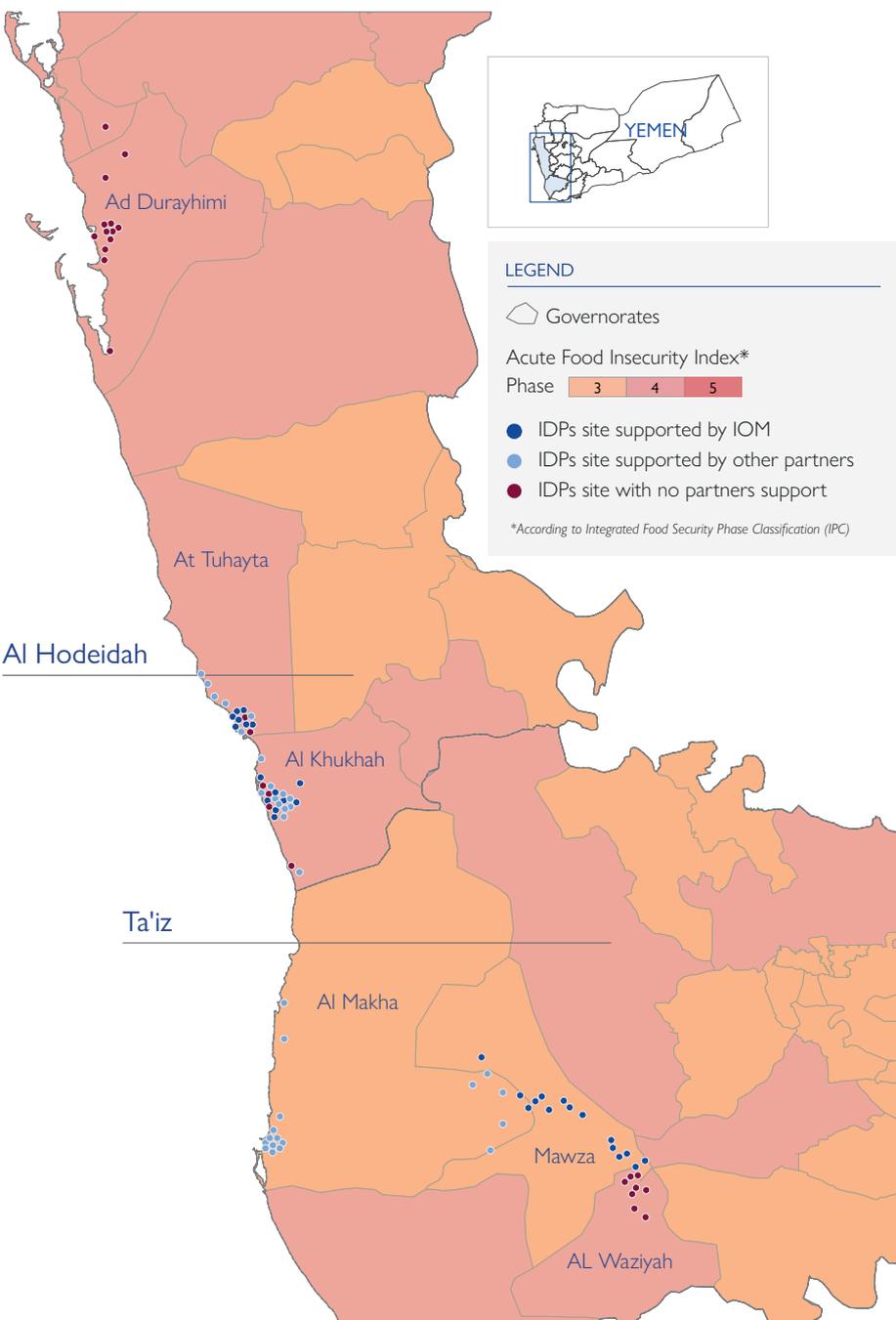
INTRODUCTION

The west coast region of Yemen covers two governorates and includes 11 districts: four districts in Ta'iz and seven in Al Hodeidah. In 2017 and 2018, the west coast witnessed large displacements, with major movements of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into Al Makha district, Ta'iz, and over 12,000 households displaced to Al Khukhah, At Tuhayta, Hays and Ad Durayhimi districts in Al Hodeidah. Today, in south Ta'iz, the majority of IDP hosting sites are in Al Makha and Mawza' districts, with 14 sites in each district, while in south Al Hodeidah, a total of 113 IDP hosting sites are reported in Al Khukhah, At Tuhayta, Ad Durayhimi and Hays districts.¹ As frontlines continue to be active, new displacements movements continue to be recorded across the region.

A majority of IDPs have been living for two-three years in the 141 displacement sites where there is limited access to appropriate humanitarian assistance. Given the large response gaps in relation to growing needs, IOM is scaling up operations here. In January 2021, IOM established a sub office in Al Makha city, Ta'iz, and has since deployed dedicated international and national programme and support staff to lead the Organization's response in the region.

IOM's response priorities are guided by multisectoral needs assessments and underpinned by the Organization's direct implementation model. Based on IOM's assessment of needs and response gaps, and in coordination with partners, IOM is providing multisectoral assistance in IDP sites and underserved areas which host high numbers of IDPs. In the immediate term, IOM is prioritising 19 IDP hosting sites where there are no camp management and camp coordination (CCCM) partners and where there are large gaps around water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and shelter and non-food items (S-NFI) which are common priority needs. In the medium term, the Organization plans to expand emergency and preparedness response capacity and expand interventions to fill response gaps that persist.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT AND NEEDS



¹ To note, while there are also IDP sites and displacement in north Al Hodeidah, it is currently inaccessible to IOM due to bureaucratic and security constraints. North Ta'iz does not fall under the West Coast hub.

PRIORITY NEEDS & GAPS

 19 IDP hosting sites targeted² |
  4,152 displaced households targeted |
 Priority needs: WASH, Health, S-NFI

Needs in the west coast have progressively grown over the course of the crisis, driven mainly by economic shocks and the active conflict. Humanitarian needs are exacerbated by displacement, decreased access to basic services, food insecurity, disrupted public services, and the depreciating Yemeni Riyal. According to the 2020 IPC Acute Malnutrition classification and 2021 forecast, the two zones³ with critical levels of acute malnutrition are the Ta'iz and Al Hodeidah lowlands. Escalating fighting and displacement have destroyed markets and transport infrastructure, affecting farmlands and livestock. Food production and other income generating activities have been significantly interrupted. The public health system, weakened by years of conflict, is not able to cover the delivery of health services even as acute malnutrition cases are on the rise. Four west coast districts in south Al Hodeidah (Al Khawkhah, At Tuhayta, Ad Durayhimi and Hays) show a combined Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)⁴ status of 27.1 per cent (the highest in the country), followed by three districts in Ta'iz (Dhubab, Mawza' and Waziyah) with 22.3 per cent⁵.

IOM multisector assessments in Ta'iz and Al Hodeidah reinforce these findings. There are humanitarian response gaps in virtually all response areas, and needs are widespread across both IDP and host community members. Some of the largest gaps in the assessed sites are around health, WASH and S-NFI. Health facilities are far from IDP hosting sites and those that are functioning are often crowded and do not have adequate capacity to meet emergency or specialised care needs. A majority of sites do not have sustained access to clean and safe water or enough functional latrines to support the populations residing there. Additionally, it is widely reported that most sites have inadequate or substandard shelters and a lack of NFIs, resulting in the use of negative coping mechanisms such as sending children to work and reducing food intake to purchase household items.

For the most part, the needs of IDPs do not differ from those in host communities. In Mawza' district in Ta'iz, for example, IDPs are scattered in sites that are often near host communities living in similar conditions and with comparable levels of vulnerability. For this reason, all interventions must consider vulnerable host communities as well as the displaced population. In both Al Hodeidah and Ta'iz, there are also large groups of Muhamasheen⁶ in the governorate who are living in vulnerable conditions and require assistance.

In addition to service gaps and the acute needs across population groups, there is limited partner presence on the West Coast. While a number of international non-government organizations (INGOs) are currently working in the West Coast, they have limited or partial coverage in the CCCM, S-NFI, WASH, rapid response mechanism (RRM), health, cash and protection sectors, and cannot meet all multisectoral needs. In some areas – such as on protection and education – there are few partners present with limited coverage. In terms of UN presence, one UN Organization has permanent staff presence, although UN agencies are implementing activities exclusively through implementing partners. There are many national NGOs working in the region, but none currently have the human and financial resource capacity to provide sustainable, multi-sectoral interventions.



Water quality testing for one of the main wells in Mokha by an IOM engineer © M.Mohammed/IOM 2021

² IOM is targeting 19 sites identified from a total of 141 IDP sites along the West Coast.

³ Out of the 19 zones included in the analysis.

⁴ Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) is a measurement of the nutritional status of a population that is often used in protracted refugee/IDP situations.

⁵ According to the 2020 IPC analysis

⁶ Muhamasheen, meaning 'the marginalized ones', are a minority ethnic group in Yemen.

IOM INTERVENTION STRATEGY 2021

IOM will provide multisectoral assistance in IDP hosting sites, prioritizing those with high numbers of IDPs, a low risk of mines and eviction threats, and the space to host additional IDPs. IOM will also prioritize districts and sites that are underserved, where the Organization will work with existing international and national NGOs to fill gaps and expand what interventions and services are available. Expansion into additional districts may also be considered depending on the availability of funds. IOM's interventions will focus on immediate humanitarian interventions using a strengthened multi-sectoral approach that is coordinated, wherever possible, through CCCM and supportive of long term solutions over time. Owing to IOM's direct implementation approach, the Organization is able to directly assess, implement and monitor activities and can ensure the scalability, appropriateness and sustainability of interventions.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM will conduct site management and coordination in several sites in Al Khukhah and At Tuhayta districts, including service monitoring, gap analyses, coordination of service providers and referrals, establishing a complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM), and the establishment of site committees. Sites will be prioritized based on gaps in coverage by existing CCCM partners, locations with high needs or vulnerabilities and/or with larger IDP populations and sites that have the capacity to accommodate new IDPs. IOM will also distribute solar lamps and implement flood risk reduction works through cash for work or the use of heavy machinery by contractors in sites at risk of flooding. In some cases, IOM will assist with the relocation of vulnerable households away from flood-risk areas. If additional funding is obtained, IOM will provide full site care and maintenance, including electrical improvements, the establishment of fire breaks, construction of access roads and of community structures, and the distribution of site maintenance kits.

PROTECTION

IOM will establish mobile protection teams to provide a full spectrum of protection services (case management, cash for protection, protection monitoring and counselling) and establish a referral system (for gender-based violence cases, legal protection, etc.) in all targeted sites in Mawza', Al Khukhah and At Tuhayta districts where there are currently no protection partners covering these sites or specialized services available.

CASH ASSISTANCE

To support protracted IDPs and vulnerable host communities, IOM will provide Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) for a three-month period. New IDPs will also receive one off MPCA, while the more vulnerable caseloads will receive multi-month MPCA. This approach will provide IDPs with the means to purchase goods and services in line with their needs, while supporting local markets and improving community coping capacities. IOM has already established agreements with reliable financial service providers here and has the capacity to monitor distributions (directly or through third party monitors).

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM will prioritise districts in Ta'iz, and Al Hodeidah based on needs, existing capacity (i.e., possibility to construct water networks, availability of land to install water systems and to construct latrines) and partner presence, and cover WASH gaps by providing a comprehensive first and second line WASH response. Emergency WASH interventions will be carried out in sites where large groups of IDPs are struggling to access water and sanitation services, and will include water trucking, latrine desludging, and hygiene kit and mosquito net distributions. While these interventions aim to meet the immediate needs of IDPs, IOM will concurrently explore more sustainable WASH solutions through the improvement or rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities (water networks, latrines) wherever possible.

SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (S-NFI)

To meet urgent needs, IOM plans to distribute S-NFI kits to vulnerable and newly displaced households as well as those living in protracted displacement situations. In the mid-term, the team will explore opportunities to construct transitional shelters and rehabilitate damages/worn out shelters, recognising that a majority of IDPs have been displaced for years. Shelter rehabilitation activities may include the provision of shelter maintenance kits and materials or cash for shelter rehabilitation to IDPs, while transitional shelter activities involve displaced communities in designing and installing suitable and more sustainable shelter

HEALTH

IOM currently supports Al Makha hospital, Ta'iz, with medicine support, including its Diarrhoea Treatment Centre. To increase access to health services amongst the IDP population who report significant gaps in access to functional health care providers, IOM will operate four mobile clinics that will cover IDP sites and surrounding communities in Al Khukhah, At Tuhayta, Al Makha and Mawza' districts. If funds are secured, IOM plans to roll out health facility rehabilitation activities, mainly in Al Khukhah and At Tuhayta districts, Al Hodeidah, where gaps in health services are highest, and expand mobile medical team in Ad Durayhimi.

 **TRANSITION AND RECOVERY**

In Mawza', Al Makha, Al Khukhah and At Tuhayta districts, IOM is seeking funding to provide tailored livelihood interventions (for example, livestock care, crops production, honey production, fishing training and provision of fishing kits, production of items through local materials) targeting both host communities and IDPs in coordination with protection and CCCM teams to ensure synergy between interventions. Intervention sites will be prioritized based on lack of access to income and/or livelihood generating opportunities.

 **DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)**

IOM is expanding its DTM teams in the west coast region to strengthen the daily tracking of displacement movements amongst IDP and returnees. The team will work closely with RRM partners to inform a rapid response to new movements, and more detailed assessments on needs – the Area Assessment – will be rolled out to establish operational baselines. A key priority is to further expand flow monitoring of migrant movements along the migratory routes between Aden and Al Makha.

CHALLENGES

Some districts in Al Hodeidah and Ta'iz remain partially or fully inaccessible due to their proximity to active frontlines. Security restrictions limit longer-term and larger scale interventions, and housing, land and property issues also pose concerns, such as the threat of eviction or challenges obtaining permits from landowners for construction. While some demining activities are ongoing, partners are not fully equipped or funded to undertake a significant effort to demine and remove unexploded ordnances. As a result, no area can be defined as completely cleared or safe, posing a significant obstacle for humanitarian access as well as any large-scale site maintenance or construction activities in IDP hosting sites or other locations.



IOM providing medical supplies to a public hospital in Al Makha © IOM 2021

